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alone to give. The political, economic and social aspects of the whole problem must be held equally in mind.

Within the limits to which the author has confined himself, however, the field has been carefully and adequately covered. The book is well arranged and well written.

WILLIAM BENNETT MUNRO.

Harvard University.

New York as an Eighteenth Century Municipality. Prior to 1731.

By ARTHUR E. PETERSON.

New York as an Eighteenth Century Municipality. 1731-1776.

By GEORGE WILLIAM EDWARDS.

(Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, LXXV, Nos. 1 and 2. New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1917. Pp. xv, 199; 205.)

These twin volumes taken together give the reader a comprehensive view of the government, functions and life of the city of New York from its earliest beginnings down to the outbreak of the American Revolution. The field covered is divided at the year 1731, the date of the last and most important of the New York colonial charters, known as the Montgomerie Charter. The studies do not purport to be historical narratives setting forth the consecutive events in the history of the colony familiar to the student of the American colonial period; they aim rather to portray the history of municipal institutions, activities, and customs of early New York.

A glance at the tables of contents as well as at the titles of the two books indicates that they were worked out in accordance with a common scheme of treatment. Each author has a chapter or chapters on the following topics: introductory survey of government, trade and industry, regulation of land and streets, docks and ferries, keeping the peace, and fire protection. Dr. Edwards has a chapter on the political conditions of early New York and also one on finance. He has, furthermore, concluded his chapters with a brief summary of the facts and tendencies set forth, always a welcome aid to the reader. The absence of an index to either volume is not, however, entirely compensated for by an elaborate analytical table of contents. Neither study has a preface and the reader is obliged to discover from the

voluminous footnotes the sources upon which the authors drew for their materials, the chief source seeming to have been the minutes of the Common Council of New York. It is to be expected that Dr. Peterson, who treats the earlier period, should have been more dependent upon this source than was Dr. Edwards.

It is beyond the scope of this note to summarize any of the contents of these volumes. Suffice it to say they will commend themselves to two classes of readers. The student of history and government will find them mines of valuable information, carefully arranged and scientifically weighed; and the general reader who gets beyond the somewhat uninviting titles will find much to repay him. The books are written in an exceedingly readable style, and he will be interested not only in the graphic pictures of the humble origin of Greater New York, but he will also be startled to discover how many metropolitan institutions and policies have their roots in the eighteenth century.

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MINOR NOTICES

A novel and interesting, as well as useful, public document is *The War Cabinet: Report for the Year 1917*, issued by the British government. This includes a brief account of the internal organization and procedure of the new central committee of five which exercises general control over the British administration. But it includes also a series of chapters presenting a comprehensive and well written discussion of the machinery and functions of the British government, mainly during the year 1917, though in some matters summarizing earlier events since the beginning of the great war. Military operations are given some attention; but the bulk of the report deals with such matters as army and naval administration, munitions and air craft, the regulation of industry and shipping, food control, and public finance.

Such an official report naturally describes events from the point of view of the present ministry; and does not emphasize what has been adversely criticized. But there is no attempt at fulsome praise; and the report as a whole can be commended as a straightforward and readable account of an eventful year, such as is seldom found in official documents.

The *Federal Law Quarterly* (Federal Publishing Co., Indianapolis), the first number of which appeared in April, 1918, aims to serve as a